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Mr. Tuan A. Vu
United States Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Re: Attorney Docket No. 8006-0019-13
Confirmation No. 7593
Application No. 09/556,439

Dear Mr. Vu:

As you know, over three years have passed since I submitted this patent application. There were a number of revisions and in my confusion I tried to equate your detailed action to the wrong revision of the patent application. I have obtained a copy of the patent application with thirty-one Claims and I am attempting a response, which I hope will prove satisfactory. Perhaps in hindsight it would have been easier and even cheaper in terms of time and finances to amend the issued patent serial number 6,088, 437 as the Objects were disclosed in the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE of that patent. At this point I am forced to submit this patent application without benefit of counsel and my understanding of the process is less than complete, so please bear with me.

General Comments Re Other Patents Cited By Your Office

In reading *Barnhouse*, it appears that *Barnhouse* discloses a way for network owners to develop new services and deploy them across their networks, while I have concentrated on ways to furnish structure, i.e., virtual offices, custom applications and user customizable services to clients of our hardened, mirrored, secured, encrypted and viral scrubbed network. These are two very different endeavors and the Objects we each use therefore would not be the same.

I am somewhat confused about the inclusion of your objections on the basis of DEC CIT. Is DEC CIT part of a patent? It seems more like part of a manual and appears to be directed toward computer integrated telephony. In contrast, I am directed toward providing the rapid deployment of custom virtual office applications that are hardened,